Garor Zette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND + 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA + JULY 2000

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PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIIO

Tech. Sgt. Michael Cork, Staff Sgt. Gregory Atkins, Senior Airman Josh Wendt and Staff Sgt. Larry Bunn perform an annual inspection on a munitions handling trailer in the AGE maintenance shop.

AGE...not something to be ashamed of

By Master Sgt. Greg Steele 93rd Bomb Squadron UPAR

Tucked away in the far reaches of the 917th Wing, a group of airmen stand in the shadow of a giant — the arsenal of the United States Air Force. These airmen make up the 917th Aerospace Ground Equipment shop.

"No air power without ground power is our motto," said Senior Airman Josh Wendt, 917th AGE mechanic. "The motto has been around for a long time, but it basically means that if you don't have the equipment to fix the plane and get it off the ground, then it won't get off the ground." Though not yet tasked for the Air Expeditionary Force, these members are confident that whenever they are needed, they will be more than able to meet the demand.

The AGE shop, which is responsible for maintaining all of the support equipment used by the 93rd Bomb Squadron and the 47th Fighter Squadron, is made up of 43 personnel, 19 of them full-time.

"We maintain equipment ranging from generators to maintenance stands," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Cork, 917th AGE mechanic. "That is more than 200 pieces of support equipment for the wing."

To learn how to repair and maintain that essential equipment, AGE personnel must complete a 7-month course at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas. This career field is for people who are mechanically inclined, good with their hands and not afraid to get



Tech Sgt. Diana Perusin inspects a steam cleaner in the AGE maintenance shop before it is checked out to a customer.

grease under their nails.

Our technicians have the knowledge and wisdom to perform any job, no matter how large or technical, said Senior Master Sgt. Mark McCrea, Age flight chief. "They have the skills and ability to do whatever it takes to complete the mission."

In addition to maintaining a wide variety of equipment both on and off the flightline, the AGE shop supports wing and squadron functions by



Staff Sgt. Ron Pruitt pulls a vacuum on an air conditioning unit during repairs to the system.

A message from the Wing Commander

Gator Gazette

917th Wing Office of Public Affairs 1000 Davis Avenue E Bldg. 6803, Rm. 229 Barksdale AFB, LA 71110 Vol. 7 No. 7 July 2000

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What AEF tasking means to the 917th

I am sure that by now you have heard about the Air Force's Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept of operation. As a result of downsizing that has taken place over the past 10 years (a 40 percent smaller Air Force), we have fewer overseas bases. Thus, it is imperative that we have the capability to rapidly deploy personnel and equipment anywhere in the world on short notice. To facilitate this, and put some predictability into the lives of active-duty personnel, the Air Force has established 10 Aerospace Expeditionary Forces. Each AEF is composed of active duty, guard, and reserve forces that bring a variety of capabilities to that AEF. The 93rd Bomb Squadron is part of AEF 7. Every 15 months, they will have a 90-day window where they will be "on call" to deploy a small part of the squadron should a contingency arise somewhere in the world. We just started our first vulnerability period on June 1.

The Air Force Reserve has chosen to accomplish our combat support commitments to the AEF a little different. Units that are primaries for the entire 15-month cycle will fill the Reserve's fair share of the combat support requirement. Our wing is tasked for the 15-month cycle from December 2000 through February 2002. Thus, our combat support functions will be tasked to support the AEF during that time. We will not be tasked again until 45 months (3+ years) later.



Brig. Gen. Jack C. Ihle

Now, what does all this mean to you? It means that your annual tour for next year will be held to cover any AEF tasking that comes to the 917th Wing. Once all our AEF tasking has been covered, then your annual tour may be used for something else. As soon as we get dates and locations, we will be coming to your unit commanders to assign names to spaces. The ultimate goal is to get tasking for entire UTCs or units instead of individuals. We are not there yet, so be flexible. In fact, this entire process is going through a lot of growing pains, and things seem to change daily.

Bottom line, it's our obligation as a wing to stand up to our fair share of the AEF tasking.

Chaplain's Corner: Independence Day

By Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Willis, Sr.

Independence Day was a riveting movie that I have enjoyed seeing more than once. The idea of humanity worldwide uniting to overcome a common foe was particularly exciting.

What we often fail to realize is that we humans already have a common foe –

the spiritual forces of darkness. And our ultimate "independence day" depends on each of us recognizing that our unity with God is the only way any of us can overcome that common foe.

During July as we celebrate our great nations independence, let's also take time to remember and give thanks to God who is the only true source of all our freedoms, especially our freedom from sin and death.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance." (Psalm 33:12 NIV)

Let us know before you show

The first 12 weeks of pregnancy may look pretty unremarkable from the outside, but there's a lot going on inside. By the end of the first trimester, the embryo has formed its heart, central nervous system, and all its limbs. If anything goes wrong during this critical period, it can cause problems later.

That's why we strongly encourage any

pregnant reservist to contact the 917th Medical Squadron at 456-8983 for preventative and occupational health education.

A temporary profile change is intiated and an assessment of the duty workplace is performed. This is necessary to screen for hazardous conditions that may affect early pregnancy. So, share the good news with us early.

New dental plan expands services, includes reservists

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (**AFPN**) — The Defense Department's new TRICARE Dental Program will feature lower premiums, expanded services and cost ceilings, and will allow reservists and their families to enroll.

DOD awarded a \$1.8 billion, five-year contract in April to United Concordia Companies Inc., of Camp Hill, Pa., the current TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan administrator. Changes take effect Feb. 1, 2001. "One of the most significant changes is that reserve members and their families will be eligible to enroll," said Navy Capt. Lawrence D. McKinley, the TRICARE Management Activity's senior consultant for dentistry.

During the first two years of the contract, premiums for reservists on extended active duty and their families will mirror those of active-duty members. Premiums for families of reservists not on active duty will be somewhat higher. After the first two years, premiums may rise.

Other improvements include:

- The enrollment "lock-in" period falls from 24 months to 12. Reservists must "express intent" to remain in the reserves for at least 12 consecutive months.
- United Concordia will take over enrollment responsibilities from the services' personnel offices. McKinley said this should

improve customer service by allowing beneficiaries to deal directly with the contractor. Current enrollees will automatically transfer to the new system.

- The annual maximum for general dentistry increases from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and the lifetime maximum for orthodontic care goes from \$1,200 to \$1,500.
- General anesthesia and intravenous sedation will be covered.
- Coverage of diagnostic and preventive services expands.

Most of the changes stem from customer feedback. "We've been listening to the beneficiaries," McKinley said. "We also listened to concerns from line commanders about dental readiness and the quality of life of their people."

He also said DOD officials constantly monitor civilian insurance programs. The new TRICARE plan, he said, "easily matches most insurance programs of Fortune 500 companies and is better than many."

The program will evolve over the five years of the contract. "Each option year, we will review what we have, and we will improve as we go along if costs will not be increased," he added.

DOD and United Concordia plan to conduct customersatisfaction surveys monthly. For more information, beneficiaries can call United Concordia's toll-free customer-service line, 1-800-866-8499 or visit the company's Web site.

Order your wing coins

Wing coins are again available. The cost is \$3. Anyone interested in ordering can contact their unit first sergeant.

Golf league needs players

The 917th Golf League is still looking for players. Anyone over 18 related to those assigned to the 917th Wing is eligible to join.

They play at the Barksdale Golf Course every Monday at 3:30. Anyone interested in joining can contact Senior Master Sgt. Steve Lindberg at 456-7177 or Tech. Sgt. Tom Smith at 456-8113.

Commander's Cup Golf Tournament scheduled for July 8

The Commander's Cup Golf tournament is rescheduled for July 8.

All personnel signed up for the tournament must report to work at 6 a.m. that morning. Tee time is 2 p.m., and each team must be on their designated holes at that time.

All players must pay their entry fee by 9 a.m. July 8. For more information contact Master Sgts. Allen Atkins at 456-9027 or Jessica D'Aurizio at 456-9181.

Tickets on sale for the maintenance awards banquet

Gatorfest 2000, the first maintenance awards banquet is scheduled for October 14 at the Louisiana Downs Courtyard.

The banquet will include dinner, awards, entertainment and dancing. Starting June 1 tickets will be available for \$17.50 per person. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Pete Bretzman at 456-9082.

917th Wing openings available

The 917th Wing is accepting applications for new members and currently has approximately 75 positions available at any time. Your help is needed in finding eligible candidates to fill these positions.

Applicants should be medically, mentally and morally fit for military duty, meet Air Force height and weight requirements, and be available for military training.

Non-prior service applicants can receive an \$8,000 enlistment bonus and enter at the rank of E-3 for signing on in one of our many bonus career fields. Additionally, they may be eligible to obtain E-4 upon completion of technical school if they enter with at least 60 semester hours of college. Prior

service applicants may be eligible for up to \$8,000 enlistment bonus for entering into one of our bonus career fields. Air Force Reserve can now accept single parents and military spouses with children.

Some of the jobs available include: Aircraft Armament, Munitions, Fuels, Explosive Ordnance, Pavement and Construction, Aircraft Maintenance (Crew Chief), Special Vehicle Maintenance, Medical Technician, and many others.

Likely candidates include neighbors, co-workers, friends, relatives, friends of family members, your mechanic, or convenience store attendant. Waitress, delivery driver, maintenance workers, or anyone could be a possible candidate. Recruiters have a saying: everyone you meet falls into one of two categories, either they can join the Air Force Reserve or they know someone who can. There will always be people you meet on the street who are looking for a better way of life. You have the opportunity to help them get on track with us. If you refer someone to recruiting who joins, you will receive an Air Force Reserve portfolio with a built in calculator and your choice of an Air Force Reserve hat or T-shirt.

For more information call 456-9753 or 1-800-241-4071.

By Mrs. Belinda Bazinet Wing Public Affairs

The discovery of a lump in the breast is one of the most frightening and feared health problems a woman can face. According to the American Cancer Society, perhaps that's because breast cancer is the most common cancer to afflict women, accounting for one out of every three cancer diagnoses in America.

Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Denson, chief of education and training, faced that frightening diagnosis two days before Thanksgiving last year. "I was the one who was always reminding women to get examined. I never thought that I would be the one to find a lump."

After confirming that the lump was indeed cancerous, Denson underwent surgery, followed by four months of chemotherapy. Shortly before the surgery, Penny Durham, the president of the local Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, visited her. Knowing what was looming in the weeks to come, Durham encouraged her to be strong.

"I was sort of down the first three days, but I knew I had to accept what God had allowed to happen to me," she said. "My faith had no place to go but to increase and I feel closer to God now. I know that I don't fuss over the little matters anymore."

Strong support from her 917th family also helped in coming to terms with the disease. "I feel blessed to have this family," she said. "I didn't want pity, but I didn't mind compassion."

A career volunteer, Denson's desire to do something to help find a cure for the disease led her to team up with the local Komen Foundation. (The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36. The Komen Foundation's mission is to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, screening, education and treatment.)

Denson traveled to Washington D.C. on

June 3rd to participate in the national

Komen Race for the Cure. "Each congressfree plane ticket to send one breast cancer survivor from his district," she said, "and (U.S. Rep.) Jim McCrery sent me."

The survivor pep rally and race were very encouraging, she said. "We heard feel good stories and attended a barbeque at the home of Vice President and Mrs. Al Gore."

What was really amazing, however, was finding a relative in the midst of more than 6,000 people. "I bumped into my first cousin who was wearing a T-shirt inscribed, 'In celebration of Cheryl



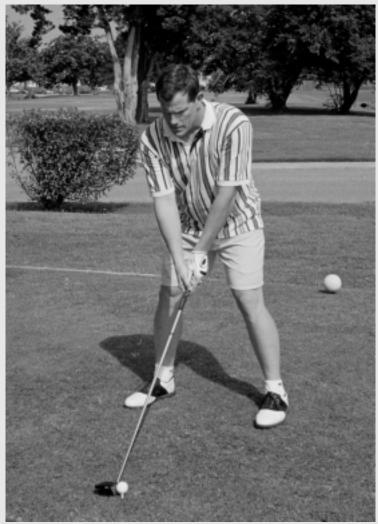
Courtesy Photo

Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Denson, Janet Martin and Penny Durham prepare to race for

Denson, breast cancer survivor, 2000," she said. "I think I cried until I was dehydrated."

Since returning from Washington D.C., Denson has volunteered to help with the local Race for the Cure, scheduled for September 16. "I'm looking for a big turnout from the 917th. This race is not just for women; it's for support of anyone affected by breast cancer."

She is also on a mission to get out and talk to everyone about early detection. "Early detection is the key to life," she said.



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Chris Rounds tees off on hole # 4 at the Barksdale Golf Course during the 917th Golf League games in June.

The 917th Golf League kicked off their 2000 intermural season in April. The league will play through September 24 with 12 teams participating.

So far this year John Douglas is in the lead with 16 points followed by the Murray brothers (Bill and Bob) with 14 points each. Gavin Smith, Steve Lindberg and Conrad Juneau are all in third with a total of 13 points.

"The league this year is going well, I plan to knock John Douglas off the top of the heap on July 10, when I play him," said



Josh Wendt putts during a 917th Wing Monday night golf league game.

917th Golf League hones skills and offers competition

Lindberg, League co-chairman. "He just keeps rolling along just enough to stay in the lead."

"I've had some good matches this year and I look forward to the competition," said Douglas. "All I can say to Steve is 'bring it on.'"

The league is still looking for interested golfers for play. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Steve Lindberg at 456-7177.

AGE

supplying non-powered AGE equipment such as maintenance stands. The shop also maintains the Northwest State School Train used during the 917th Family Day.

"The members of the 917th AGE flight are a proud and dedi-

cated group of airmen that hold job satisfaction as their reward for a job well done," said Maj. Anthony Baity, 917th Maintenance Squadron commander. "They are a group of professional airmen that do an excellent job with little recognition."

Voices: How do you think the 917th can improve retention?



Master Sgt. Stephanie Fischer 917th Logistics Squadron

"Get rid of 7 level schools." cut down on ancillary training requirements and promote equally."



Tech. Sqt. Dwight Sanders 917th Maintenance Squadron

"Offering more educational benefits and increasing reenlistment bonuses could improve retention."



Capt. Janette William-Smith 917th Mission Support Squadron

"Taking time to utilize and train new personnel in their jobs could increase retention."



Master Sgt. Kirk Lieder 93rd Bomb Squadron

"We could improve retention by restoring retirement to what was promised, like lifetime dental, retirement pay rates and promotion opportunities."

Newcomers

93rd Bomb Squadron

Maj. Larry Littrell, Bossier City, La. Maj. Jeff Wood, Bossier City, La. Capt. Robert Bay, McKinney, Texas

917th Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Frank Boisvert, Haughton,

917th Medical Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Galen Copes, San Pedro, Calif. Senior Airman Chynethia Cannon, Liberty, Miss.

Airman First Class Undrea Allen, Bossier City, La.

307th RED HORSE Squadron Staff Sgt. Dirk Gordon, Huntington, Texas 917th Logistics Support Squad-

ron

Staff Sqt. Stuart Greer, Texarkana, Texas Staff Sgt. Rhonda Harms, Bossier City, La. 917th Operations Support Flight

Senior Airman Carlota Naquin, Bossier City, La.

917th Communication Squadron

Senior Airman Chanda Sipes, Crossett,

917th Operations Group

Maj. Ricardo Beruvides, Haughton, La. 47th Fighter Squadron

Maj. Brady Glick, Climax, Miss. Senior Airman Charles Raphiel, Elgin AFB,

917th Civil Engineer Squadron Staff Sgt. Kyle Waller, Cheyenne, Wyo.

917th Mission Support Squadron Maj. Virgil Hamaty, Lewiston, N. Y.

Airman and NCO of the Quarter



Senior Airman Cortina M. Dixon 917th Medical Squadron



Tech. Sgt. Larry C. Jones 93rd Bomb Squadron

Promotion Enhancement Nominations due in July

PEP nominations for grades Tech. Sgt. through Chief Master Sgt. are due to Group Commanders by July 17 for the 917th Wing and July 14 for 307th RED HORSE.

Each unit commander is allowed to submit outstanding nominee, from their organization for promotion to Tech. Sgt. through Master Sgt. and Chief Master Sgt. Each unit has a listing of eligible airmen and specific submission criteria is contained with that listing.

The PEP board is tentatively scheduled for August. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Mary Castro or Tech. Sgt. Dennis Johnson at 456-0806.

917th Wing Training Schedule

<u>July UTA 8-9</u>			
Time	Event	Location	
Saturday			
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining	
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned unit	
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	
0700-0830	Intro all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	
0730	Long & Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon office	
0730-1030	Immunizations	Base hospital	
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital foyer	
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7	
0900-1000	Yellow fever shots	Base hospital	
0830	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227	
0900	OJT meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	
0900, 0930, 1000, 1030	917 LGM Anthrax briefings	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17	
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	
1100	Top Three meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hanger 7	
1300	93rd BS Anthrax briefing	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	
1330	Unit Safety Rep. meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	
1400	MSSQ commander's call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 277	
1550-1615 Sign-or	ıt 1550 CES, MSS, WG	1600LG 1610-MS	

Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0800	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0800	Initial Chem. Warfare	Hangar 7
0800-1200	EO 2000	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
0900	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1000	Web Masters meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1015-1100	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1300-1500	MSSQ ORM training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1300	EPR writing workshop	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1515	47th commander's call	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 CES, MSS, WG	1600LG 1610-MS

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Larry Giles Master Sgt. Joe Menna 1-800-241-4071

Little Rock AFB, Ark. Master Sqt. Kris Jaso

501-987-7188 Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Staff Sgt. Brian Mobely 972-681-6384/903-534-8618 Shreveport, La.

Tech. Sgt. Don Copeland 318-683-0331

Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. TeNeuss Land

903-223-7030 Monroe, La.

Master Sgt. James Headrick 318-323-1898

SERVICES

917th Military Personnel **Flight**

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205 Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. -All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch) 2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service.

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Saturday & Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m. MS - 11 - 1 Lunch 47FS - 11:45 WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15 CES - noon SFS - 12:15

Shuttle service to the dining hall runs every 20 minutes starting at 11 a.m.. Pick-up points are Bldg. 6850 and Bldg. 6825 (northeast side of Bldg. 6803)

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172. Family Readiness

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours are as follows:

Saturday & Sunday

noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

Bldg. 4713

For information on official or space A lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA hours of operation: Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Military clothing issue

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11:30 Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

RED HORSE demonstrates building a K-Span building



PHOTO BY CAPT. MICHAEL FALCON

Two PRIME BEEF people prepare to measure, cut and install "end wall" panels of a K-Span at a 307th RED HORSE demonstration.

Last month the 307th RED HORSE provided training for three PRIME BEEF Squadrons on the construction of K-Span buildings.

The 911th, 916th and 919th PRIME BEEF Squadrons are tasked with constructing two 50 feet X 100 feet, K-Spans at Fort Leonardwood, Mo.

during July and August.

"Tech. Sgt. Kenny Watson, 307th RED HORSE will be on site to provide supervision of the K-Spans construction," said Capt. Michael Falcon, 307th RHS chief of operations. "The machines are sometimes temperamental and require an experienced operator. Watson is our



PHOTO BY CAPT. JERI HANSEN

Tech. Sgt. Kenny Watson, 307th RED HORSE, "seams" together K-Span panels to form the familiar semi circular structure during a demonstration for PRIME BEEF.

guru." The PRIME BEEF Squadrons are building the K-Spans as part of an equipment training facility for equipment at the fort.

"A great deal of training for the engineering equipment operators in the Air Force will be provided from this location," said Falcon.

Show your boss the 917th Wing during **Employer Appreciation Day**

October UTA (Sign-up forms will be in the August Gator Gazette)

UTA Schedule

Main **Alternate** July 8-9 July 15-16 August 5-6 August 12-13 Sept. 9-10 Sept. 16-17 Oct. 14-15 Oct. 21-22 Nov. 4-5 Nov. 18-19 Dec. 2-3 Dec. 2-3 Jan. 6-7, 2001 Jan. 20-21, 2001 Feb. 3-4 Feb. 10-11 Mar. 3-4 Mar. 17-18 Apr. 7-8 Apr. 21-22 May 5-6 May 19-20 June 2-3 June 23-24 July 14-15 July 21-22 Aug. 4-5 Aug. 18-19 Sept. 8-9 Sept. 22-23

917th Wing 1000 Davis Ave. East Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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